

What is claimed is:

1. A tool comprising:

a grasper adapted to selectively grasp a tearable medium;

a conveyer adapted to selectively move the grasper along an axis to move the tearable medium against a tear-off edge to sever the tearable medium; and

a controller adapted to transmit a first signal for instructing the conveyer to move the grasper and a second signal for instructing the grasper to grasp the tearable medium.

2. The tool of claim 1, wherein the grasper comprises first and second jaws adapted to grasp the tearable medium therebetween.

3. The tool of claim 2, wherein the first jaw comprises a pad for frictionally engaging the tearable medium.

4. The tool of claim 1, wherein the controller comprises a programmable logic device.

5. The tool of claim 2, wherein the grasper comprises an actuator adapted to move the first jaw into engagement with the tearable medium for grasping the tearable medium between the first and second jaws and to move the first jaw out of engagement with the tearable medium for releasing the tearable medium from between the first and second jaws.

6. The tool of claim 1, wherein the tear-off edge constitutes a part of a printer.

7. The tool of claim 2, wherein the first jaw is actuatable along an axis that forms an angle with the axis along which the conveyer moves the grasper.

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8. The tool of claim 1, wherein the controller receives a signal that instructs the controller to transmit the first and second signals;

9. The tool of claim 1, and further comprising an electromechanical valve that receives the first signal from the controller, the electromechanical valve passing a flow of fluid to the conveyer upon receiving the first signal for moving the grasper.

10. The tool of claim 2, and further comprising an electromechanical valve that receives the second signal, the electromechanical valve passing a flow of fluid to the grasper upon receiving the second signal for moving the first jaw into engagement with the tearable medium.

11. The tool of claim 1, wherein the conveyer comprises a carriage and at least one rail, the carriage slidably attached to the at least one rail and fixedly attached to the grasper.

12. A tool comprising:

first and second jaws;

an actuator adapted to selectively move the first jaw along a first axis into engagement with a tearable medium to grasp the tearable medium between the first and second jaws and out of engagement with the tearable medium to release the tearable medium from between the first and second jaws;

a conveyer adapted to selectively move the first and second jaws along a second axis that forms an angle with the first axis to move the tearable medium when grasped by the first and second jaws against a tear-off edge to sever the tearable medium; and

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a controller adapted to transmit a first signal for instructing the conveyer to move the grasper from a first position, and a second signal for instructing the actuator to move the first jaw into engagement with the tearable medium.

13. A method for severing a tearable medium, the method comprising:
- receiving the tearable medium between a first jaw and a second jaw of a grasper;
- receiving a signal at a controller, the signal instructing the controller to transmit a sequence of signals;
- instructing a conveyer to move the grasper from a first position using a first signal of the sequence of signals;
- instructing the grasper to grasp the tearable medium between the first and second jaws using a second signal of the sequence of signals; and
- pulling the tearable medium, when grasped between the first and second jaws, against a tear-off edge using the conveyer.
14. The method of claim 13, and further comprising instructing the grasper to release the tearable medium from between the first and second jaws using a third signal of the sequence of signals.
15. The method of claim 14, and further comprising instructing the conveyer to return the grasper to the first position using a fourth signal of the sequence of signals.
16. The method of claim 13, wherein instructing the conveyer to move the grasper comprises transmitting the first signal of the sequence of signals to an electromechanical valve, the electromechanical valve passing a flow of fluid to the conveyer upon receiving the first signal of the sequence of signals for moving the grasper.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein instructing the grasper to grasp the tearable medium comprises transmitting the second signal of the sequence of signals to an electromechanical valve, the electromechanical valve passing a flow of fluid to the grasper upon receiving the second signal of the sequence of signals for moving the first jaw into engagement with the tearable medium.

18. The method of claim 13, wherein pulling the tearable medium against the tear-off edge occurs at an angle.

19. The method of claim 13, wherein receiving the tearable medium comprises receiving a paper tape from a printer.

20. The method of claim 13, and further comprising transmitting each of the sequence of signals from the controller at each of a sequence of times preprogrammed into the controller.

21. A tool for tearing printable media from an imaging device, the tool comprising:

a conveyer;

an actuator attached to the conveyer, the actuator comprising a slide;

a first jaw attached to the slide of the actuator;

a second jaw fixedly attached to the actuator and located opposite the first jaw;

and

a controller connected to the conveyer and the actuator.

22. The tool of claim 21, wherein the first jaw comprises a pad.

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23. The tool of claim 21, wherein the controller comprises a programmable logic device.

24. The tool of claim 21, and further comprising an electromechanical valve that is electrically connected to the controller and fluidly connected to the conveyer.

25. The tool of claim 21, and further comprising an electromechanical valve that is electrically connected to the controller and fluidly connected to the actuator.

26. The tool of claim 21, wherein the conveyer comprises a carriage and at least one rail, the carriage slidably attached to at least one rail and fixedly attached to the actuator.

27. The tool of claim 21, wherein the actuator is attached to the conveyer so that the slide of the actuator is oriented at an angle with respect to the conveyer.